

St. Louis Army Engineer District



Esprit

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Kids can't get enough of
Corkey, the talking boat, one
of the District's most popular
roving ambassadors.

Reach Out

The many missions of the multi-faceted St. Louis District team have provided us the opportunity to excel, and we can be proud of our long-term successful project development and execution. Through these accomplishments, we have gained a diversity and depth of knowledge which not only rivals that of any organization, but is the reason the Corps is the world's premiere engineering firm.

As professionals and experts in many fields, we have an obligation to share that knowledge with those professionals and experts who will come after us. Now is the time to inform those in the community who can and will carry our message. Our **Reach Out** effort provides the opportunity. The **District Speakers Bureau** encompasses educational and community outreach activities, affords all district employees the opportunity to become ambassadors for the Corps, and establishes and maintains relationships with educational institutions, students and the community, individually, and in groups. Each positive contact a member of the public has with a member of the St. Louis District results in improved community relations.

Many district team members already carry the Corps message outside the District through lectures, presentations, school visits, and participation in professional societies. Our navigation and recreation field sites interact with the public on a daily basis, and are the primary, and frequently the only, contact the public has with the Corps.



Hank Counts entranced
students with his tales of
unexploded ordnance



Jim Worts oversees the
building of bridges

(Cont'd on back cover)

Commander's Perspective



"The bottom line was that the St. Louis District possessed some of the brightest and most innovative employees in the Mississippi Valley Division."

Visionaries

The bicentennial anniversary of the Lewis and Clark Expedition is quickly approaching and the nation is preparing to celebrate a visionary endeavor that had its origins here in the St. Louis metropolitan area. Meriwether Lewis and William Clark led their military expedition into uncharted territory looking for a water passage to the west; and the rest is history.

Over three decades ago, another visionary project was begun here in the St. Louis District, when the River Engineering Unit launched the Environmental River Engineering Project on the Mississippi River. At the time, engineers and biologists were often at odds when addressing environmental issues: the engineers were concerned with maintaining and improving navigation, while the biologists were concerned with maintaining and improving habitat. The mindset at the time assumed that navigation and habitat improvements were incompatible. One was favored at the expense of the other.

Since the inception of this program, mindsets have begun to change. Through the use of award-winning structural designs, such as chevron dikes, bendways weirs and off-bankline revetments, the District's river engineers have succeeded in working with the natural laws of the river to

solve environmental problems impacting biological diversity, all while providing a safe and dependable navigation channel. The lesson is simple: navigational and environmental responsibilities are not either/or responsibilities. They coexist with each other.

Before coming to the St. Louis District, I asked around to get an idea of what I could expect. The bottom line was that the St. Louis District possessed some of the brightest and most innovative employees in the Mississippi Valley Division. Nearly every day, I encounter new examples, which demonstrate that truth in this belief. The most recent example recognizing the reputation of St. Louis District employees is Claude Strauser's selection as the Corps' Engineer of the Year by the National Society of Professional Engineers. Congratulations Claude, we are all very proud of you. Essayons!



**US Army Corps
Of Engineers**
St. Louis District

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Major Emmett Wood Bids Farewell

Over the years, since the fall of 1996 anyhow, I've read the wit-filled epistles of Mr. Paul Kornberger that have graced our email from time to time, and sat in slack-jawed admiration at every bucolic turn of phrase. Every syllable, sentence and paragraph was so chock-full of folksy insight and expression that it would be impossible to slip another in, even edgewise, if you tried. "Man!" I thought, "He sure has set the bar high for any poor so-and-so whose lot it is to put pen to paper and produce something the entire district is bound to read!"



But, as this is my "farewell" to the district, I trust anyone who finds himself so gripped with boredom as to let his eye linger on this commentary long enough to read it will make the allowance due a mere mortal, and that I'll be forgiven for coming up short in comparison with so renowned a literary luminary as Mr. Kornberger. That said, and in full, bold-faced knowledge of the magnitude of the endeavor, I will strive to rise to the occasion just the same.

My family and I are headed to Western Kentucky. I've accepted a position as the Director of Public Works or Facilities for the city of Bowling Green. Despite the headaches, I like the idea of working in a profession that has a direct impact upon a community's quality of life. I've logged a lot of miles going to interviews. And the things I have learned, the growth I've experienced over a 20-year career, particularly here in our district, stood me in good stead. Thank you.

More importantly, I'd like to thank everyone in the district, and I do mean absolutely everyone, for the support you've given one another. To be sure, there have been the odd instances of discord, but they have been the exception. No one, myself included, is under any illusion that 99 ^{44/100} percent of the interaction between members of this team is anything but positive. It makes it a whole lot easier to be a DE, or a Deputy, or any leader when people cooperate. My observation has been that cooperation is a hallmark of this district. It is a brain trust of the first order. And its members, all of you, take pride in serving the community, the nation and one another. I'm fortunate and proud to have served with you.



Major Wood and COL Morrow share parting thoughts

I'd like to thank the DEs for whom I've worked, COLs Morrow and Hodgini. They let me do as I saw fit, call 'em as I saw 'em, and refrained from providing more "stick and rudder" than a body could stand. They supported me, as they supported every person in this district. And you can't ask for much more than that. By the way, as this is also my farewell to the Army, and though none of them are apt to ever know of it, I'd like to thank my previous commanders, Robert T. Howard, Robert V. Kazimer, Robert N. Martin, (there seems to be a trend here) Donald Riedel, James Golden, Robert B. Flowers and Phillip R. Anderson. I haven't had a single commander or direct supervisor whose integrity, honesty and forbearance wasn't a source of inspiration to me. They all had a healthy sense of humor, fortunately for me, and I thank them all and aspire to live up to the standard they've set.

Finally, most importantly I want to thank my family for patiently following me around the country, where duty has called, without complaint. What gratitude I feel toward my commanders and co-workers who've helped shape my career and professional life pales in comparison with what I feel toward Lisa, Joanna, Ben and Jane. They are the reason I bother to rise and join you here at work every day. Without our families, a life is a pretty lonely and meaningless existence. So, to my family, I say thanks and promise that the next 20 years belong to them.

Well, Paul, looks like I couldn't resist "turning sappy". But hey, PA asked for my 2 cents. Do you think I short-changed them?

Bigelow Promoted



Mrs. Shannon Bigelow and COL Morrow pin the new rank on MAJ Bigelow



(l-r) COL Jim Bigelow, Mrs. Jean Bigelow, COL Morrow, MAJ Ben Bigelow, Mrs. Shannon Bigelow.

A promotion ceremony was held at the SLAPS FUSRAP site on 28 February 2001 as Captain Benjamin Bigelow was promoted to Major. Except for six months served in Kosovo, Major Bigelow has been assigned to the FUSRAP project throughout his tour at the St. Louis District. In addition to his wife, Shannon, Major Bigelow's parents, Colonel and Mrs. . Jim Bigelow , USA (Ret.), were also in attendance. MAJ Bigelow will take on the responsibility of serving as Deputy District Engineer for the last six months of his duty at the St. Louis District.

Last month, as we introduced Major Bigelow to the rest of the District, a photo of his entire family was unavailable. Here, as promised, are Archie and Oliver Bigelow. District employees are cautioned not to refer to these family members as "fat", as Major Bigelow adamantly insists , "they are big-boned!".



EEO NEWS CONSIDERATION OF OTHERS PROGRAM

The Department of the Army developed the Consideration of Others Program (CO2) to help build cohesion by expanding awareness of your actions and how they impact others. The CO2 program is intended to help you consider how your everyday actions impact not only others around you, but also your organization, yourself, and your family. The program is also designed to help you understand how various human effectiveness programs can influence your ability to perform your assigned duties. This is a **DA mandated** program.

The definition of CO2 is "those actions that indicate a sensitivity to and regard for the feelings and needs of others and an awareness of the impact of one's own behavior on them; being supportive of and fair with others." This definition implies the following:

- Ensuring that the work environment is conducive to good teamwork and a productive workforce through caring and compassion for others.
- Ensuring that all St. Louis District personnel and our customers are treated with dignity and respect in the workplace.

Consideration of Others focuses on civil and compassionate behaviors that enhance esprit de corps among team members. It assists in identifying behaviors that detract from the work environment and consists of three elements: education, ownership, and compliance.

Training schedules for April will be furnished by the EEO Office via email.

THE ST. LOUIS DISTRICT SPEAKERS BUREAU AND OUTREACH PROGRAM: PRESENTING FOR A PURPOSE

By Lattissua Tyler

There are brilliantly talented employees walking past you, literally, everyday. These individuals work and strive for a purpose...contributing to the Corps of Engineers confirmation of integrity, professionalism, and excellence in all we do. This column is an introduction to, and showcase for, just a few of the hard-working men and women dedicated to educating the public about all the great things happening throughout the St. Louis District and who are participating in the **St. Louis District Speakers Bureau**. Their efforts to educate the public and their professionalism have shown through their programs and presentations. These Speakers are **Presenting for a Purpose**.

(6 Jan 2001) **Tim George**, Ecologist, PM-E, gave a wetlands and environmental presentation to undergraduates at Lindenwood College in St. Charles. The focus of his presentation was three "themes" and their relation to wetlands: the District's various missions, and our environmental projects, including East St. Louis and Vicinity Interior Flood Control and Ecosystem Restoration Project.

(25 Jan 2001) **Tom Niedernhofer**, Search and Rescue Expert, ED-D, and St. Louis District retiree, **Emmett Hahn**, Disaster Response expert, made three presentations to 7th graders at the Rockwood School District. Their slide presentation on Disaster Response for flooding, search and rescue, hurricanes, and earthquakes was enhanced by the presence of actual equipment used in the Oklahoma City Bombing Search and Rescue, including protective gear, which the students were allowed to try on, and debris from the explosion which the students handled. According to Tom, the students asked intelligent questions, appeared interested, and learned a lot about the Corps.

(23 Feb 2001) **Eugene and Kristen Marino**, ED-Z, gave archaeological presentations to six 6th grade social studies classes at Rockwood Valley Middle School. At the end of the day, one of the teachers told the presenters that she was surprised to see a student in particular participating in their presentation. The teacher said the student usually had an attitude about everything, was often surly, and did not participate in classes. However, another teacher later observed that the young lady was smiling in her next class, and when asked why she was so happy, the girl responded "Because I know what I want to be when I grow up!"

(16 Feb 2001) **Keith McMullen**, Biologist, CO-F, gave a presentation to approximately 350 6th graders at Crestview Middle School in Chesterfield. Keith's talk focused on the mysteries of bird migration from its origins to its current study and ongoing research. He discussed migration corridors or flyways, monitoring, neotropical migrants, banding, radar ornithology, orientation, seasonal movements and post breeding wandering. He introduced the basics of getting started in birding to the school children and their teachers, discussing equipment and materials needed, best times for finding birds, what birds and birding mean to me, why birds are important and common birds in various habitats. Keith concluded his presentation with a competitive, but friendly, contest in naming the various birds depicted on his CD-ROM, "Birds of North America". This was certainly a highlight as all the children, and teachers as well, participated in a lively sharing of knowledge.

Note: If you would like to contribute your knowledge and expertise to the Speakers Bureau, please contact Lattissua Tyler at 331-8095.

St. Louis District Employee is USACE 2001 Federal Engineer of the Year

By Mel Baldus

The US Army Corps of Engineers has selected Claude N. Strauser, P.E., P.H., L.S., Chief Hydrologic and Hydraulics Branch, as USACE Engineer of the Year. As a result, Claude represented the Corps in the annual competition sponsored by the National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE) and was chosen as a top ten finalist in the 2001 Federal Engineer of the Year Program. The finalists were honored by the Professional Engineers in Government, a practice division of the NSPE, at the 22nd Annual National Engineers Week luncheon at Ft. Myer, VA. The Federal Engineer of the Year Award program recognizes outstanding engineers employed in the federal government.

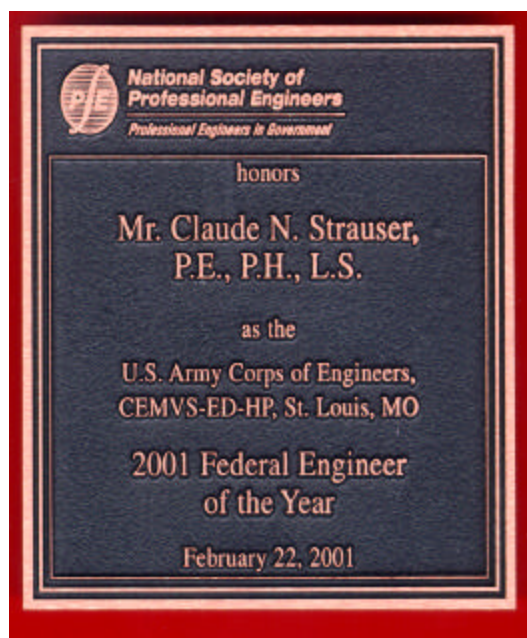
"Over the last three decades, Strauser has led a team of engineers and scientists and created what we believe to be a new field of engineering, appropriately called 'Environmental River Engineering,'" said BG Edwin J. Arnold, Jr., Division Engineer, Mississippi Valley Division, who nominated Claude for this award. The goal of this field is to obtain and maintain a safe and dependable navigation channel in an environmentally sensitive manner by adopting a multidisciplinary professional team approach to satisfy the contemporary needs.

Strauser has authored/co-authored 19 professional papers in river restoration and is a sought-after lecturer in this field. In addition to numerous presentations throughout the United States, He has presented international lectures in China, Japan, Germany and the Netherlands. This most recent honor accompanies numerous other awards, including Chief of Engineers Engineer Design Team of the Year Award, 2000; Chief of Engineers Design and Environmental Award, 2000, 1998; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Civilian of the Year, 1997; Presidential Award for Design Excellence in 1994, personally presented by President Clinton; Mississippi River Restoration Award, American Rivers, 1997; and the Conservationist of the Year Award, Migratory Waterfowl Hunters, Inc., 1996. Claude earned his bachelor's and professional degrees in civil engineering from the University of Missouri-Rolla. He is a member of the National Society of Professional Engineers, American Society of Civil Engineers, Missouri Association of Registered Land

Surveyors, the Society of American Military Engineers, the Academy of Science of St. Louis, and the Permanent International Association of Navigation Congress, where he serves as a U.S. representative to the International Winter Navigation Workgroup. He is a Past President of the Rolla Chapter of the Missouri Society of Professional Engineers and a Past President of the Academy of Civil Engineers, University of Missouri-Rolla.

A recent congratulatory letter from Congressman Shimkus states, "I would like to commend you not only for this award, but also for all of the work you have done at the St. Louis District Office. I know first hand of your dedication through the Sny Levee Emergency Project....Please do not hesitate to advise me if I can be of service to you."

Congratulations, Claude, on this well-deserved honor.



St. Louis District Does it Again

Corps and Partners Honored for Excellence

By Mel Baldus

The International Erosion Control Association has presented St. Louis District Hydraulic Engineer Jerry Rapp and Thompson Bend Soil Conservation Association President, Lester Goodin the international and highly prestigious “Environmental Achievement Award of Distinction” for the Thompson Bend Riparian Corridor Project. This award is presented annually to an outstanding project which demonstrates excellence in natural resource



(l-r) Lester Goodin and Jerry Rapp receive award at the IECA annual conference. As lead project engineer, Jerry accepted the award on behalf of the Corps.

conservation and environmental protection through the use of effective erosion and sediment control policies, practices and/or public education. The project partners were honored for excellence in natural resource conservation and environmental protection by using trees rather than conventional engineered structures to control severe erosion on a 17-mile stretch of the Mississippi River. The largest project of its kind in the country, the Thompson Bend Riparian Corridor demonstrates that navigation can be maintained on a large, complex river system in an environmentally-sensitive manner. This major international award recognizes Jerry and Lester’s significant contribution to a troublesome erosion control problem at Thompson Bend, where the Mississippi had begun to wander off course and attempt to cut a new channel across the

peninsula formed by the bend. Had corrective measures not been implemented, sustaining navigation on the continuous 2300-mile inland waterway would have been virtually impossible and the impact on flood protection could have been catastrophic. Probable failure of the adjacent Mississippi River Mainline Levee would inundate 5700 square miles of the Mississippi Delta, past Memphis to Helena, Arkansas, 230 miles downstream, leaving 300,000 people homeless. Maintaining this continuous navigation channel is critical to the economy not only of Midwestern farmers, other producers and the navigation industry, but to all citizens, as the waterway transportation system keeps product and transportation costs down and is an environmentally-friendly mode of transportation.

Over a 14-year period, the Thompson Bend Riparian Corridor was developed, implemented and refined. It proved its worth in the Great Flood of 1993 and again in the flood of 1995. It continues to cut floodwater velocity in half and prevent significant erosion, and navigability is maintained at the Bend.

The award citation states: “Honoring a Demonstrated Commitment to Excellence in Natural Resource Conservation and Environmental Protection Through the Application of Effective Erosion and Sediment Control Policies, Practices and Public Education”

According to Jerry, “This is a classic example of effective teamwork and we were just two members of a team. This could not have been accomplished without knowledgeable and dedicated team members. Without the contributions of Sharon Wolfe and Dan Erickson, this project would not have been as successful.”

Lakes and Rivers News

Carlyle Lake/Kaskaskia Navigation Project

Visitor Center 2001 Education Series

-- 24 June: *Birds of Prey*. Look up and out for the big birds flying overhead.
 --15 July: Discover the variety of mammals living in Illinois when the IL Dept. of Natural Resources presents *Mammals of Illinois*.
 --26 August: The St. Louis Herpetology Society will feature Outback Ed who uses live animals to provide a learning experience about different reptiles and amphibians of the world.

Campground Openings: Carlyle Lake Campgrounds will soon be open for the 2001 recreation season. The Dam West Campground opens 30 March; Boulder Campground opens 1 April; Coles Creek, McNair and Louts open on 1 May. Reservations can be made through the National Recreation Reservation Service (NRRS) by calling a toll-free number (877) 444-6777 or via the internet at www.ReserveUSA.com.

Commander's Award: Project Manager Robert Wilkins presented a Commander's Award to James Harris, President of the Carlyle Lake Association and the C-2000 Carlyle Lake IDNR Ecosystem Partnership. Mr. Harris was honored for his service and achievements which have contributed significantly to the protection and enhancement of the ecological and economical conditions of the Carlyle Lake Project and the C-2000 Ecosystem Partnerships Projects.



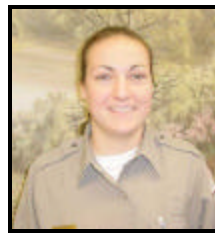
Lake Shelbyville

Fire Safety Training: Lake Shelbyville Natural Resources personnel held a safety meeting covering basic fire suppression and safety in the field. In addition to Lake Shelbyville employees, also attending were personnel from both Wolf and Eagle Creek State Parks, and the Bethany Wildlife Management Area. Topics included an overview of the Lake Shelbyville revised Fire Plan and display of new protective equipment and clothing. Brent Weaver, Hidden Springs State Forest, presented literature and a 20-minute safety video on fire safety. Following discussions, personnel wishing to qualify for the lake fire team performed a physical fitness test consisting of walking a two-mile course in less than 30 minutes with a 25-lb pack. Fourteen Corps employees and one state employee passed the test.

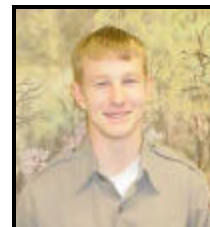


New Student Employees

Lake Shelbyville welcomes two new student employees, Ashley Mathias and Corey Donnel. Ashley attends McKendree College in Lebanon, IL and has worked for the Corps at Shelbyville for the past three summers. Corey attends Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, and worked the summer of 2000 at Lake Shelbyville.



Ashley



Corey

Wappapello Lake By Keith Kelley

Special Events

--7 April: Missouri Beautification Association Roadside Cleanup

--17-18 April: Earth Day activities

21-22 April: 23rd Annual Black Powder Rendezvous at the Greenville Recreation Area

9-11 April: Lake staff will assist the Mingo National Wildlife Refuge with Ecology Days

Education: Lake staff members who are certified as Missouri Hunter Education Instructors conducted a Hunter Education Course in March. The course was one of a series offered by Wappapello Lake throughout the year in cooperation with the Missouri Department of Conservation.

Eagles Thriving at Wappapello Lake

Majestically soaring above Wappapello Lake, two pairs of mature bald eagles are again raising their young in Southeast Missouri. Two active nest sites were confirmed in 2000 with each nest fledging two eaglets. This brings the total number of eaglets fledged from Wappapello Lake nest sites to 18 since 1994.

The pairs have been seen on and around the nests throughout the winter and again appear to be active on the nest. Bald eagles normally lay two to three eggs once a year. They begin incubation in early February and hatch the eggs approximately 35 days later. The young eagles are flying within three months and are on their own by midsummer.

The diet staple of most bald eagles is fish, but they will eat just about anything they can catch, including snakes, rodents, ducks and carrion.

In 1940, noting that our national symbol was threatened with extinction, Congress passed the Bald Eagle Protection Act, which made it illegal to kill, harass, possess or sell bald eagles. By the early 1960s, there were fewer than 450 bald



eagle nesting pairs in the lower 48 states. In 1967 (under a law preceding the 1973 Endangered Species Act) bald eagles were officially declared an endangered species. Through reintroduction efforts by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and state conservation agencies, the banning of DDT, the phasing out of the use of lead shot in waterfowl hunting and habitat improvement, bald eagle populations have steadily increased. In July 1995, the bald eagle status was upgraded from endangered to threatened.

In 1984 there were no known productive nests in Missouri. In 1995, 19 bald eagle nests were confirmed productive, fledging 38 young. In 2000 the number had risen to an astounding total of 48 confirmed productive nests, fledging 95-101 young.

The bald eagle is truly an all-American bird, and the only eagle unique to North America. We are proud that our nation's symbol has found a home at Wappapello Lake.

Mark Twain Lake

Volunteers Develop Fish Habitat

Nine members of the Mark Twain Bassmasters assisted Lake personnel in constructing and placing fourteen fishing structures in a pond. The structures are constructed of PVC pipe and will provide "snagless" cover for the fish. Volunteers worked a total of 31.5 hours.

Rend Lake

Earth Day 2001 Celebration: Rend Lake will host 4,056 students at the Visitor Center 3-4 May, in celebration of Earth Day. This annual event allows students from all over Southern Illinois to spend a day away from traditional classrooms and into Mother Nature's classroom. Classes ranging from Kindergarten to 8th grade are scheduled to attend five different stations for presentations which could include

anything from a hawk flying within inches of their heads to stomping through a wetlands to dig up the gray, sticky mud in search of creepy-crawly things. The goals of the event are to evoke the students' interest in the environment around them, to help them gain some knowledge of their surroundings, and to help them begin to realize that we are all connected and that our actions can make a difference.

So, "How do "we" do this?" **We** do this by acting as a team. Rend Lake rangers spend endless months preparing for this event by registering classes, renting tents, tables, bleachers, dumpsters, and anything else needed to handle an event this large, scheduling 975 classes into approximately 250 class sessions, and, most importantly, recruiting presenters to share their knowledge with exuberant young minds. This is where **you** fit in to the "**WE**" part of the team. Rend Lake would like you to help us put on the Rend Lake Earth Day 2001 Celebration. We need help with presentations on Earth Day, emphasizing environmental issues, and we need people to assist others in presenting programs--people that are willing to dive in and try new things like facilitating a game or nature craft project supplied by the Rend Lake staff. If any of this sounds interesting, please contact Tim Bischoff at 618-724-2493.

Rend Lake Rangers --Out and About

Rend Lake's Assistant Manager, Kevin Curran, was invited to speak at a Southern Illinois University at Carbondale Wildlife Policy class. Kevin's presentation included the major missions of the Corps and an overview of Rend Lake's history and management. The new "Building More Than Castles" Corps of Engineers history was also shown to the students.

Park Ranger Janet Mifflin attended the annual Career Fair Day at Mt. Vernon Township High School. Approximately 900

students from Webber, Waltonville, Wayne City, Woodlawn, and Mt. Vernon High School plus Rend Lake College Students obtained career information from presentations, hands-on demonstrations, and talked one-on-one with experienced persons in their chosen career fields.

Employee of the Month



IM's Warren Jones has been selected as **February's** Employee of the Month. Warren

burned a lot of midnight and weekend oil preparing specifications for, receiving, installing and troubleshooting systems that upgraded the District network. He implemented the changes in a manner that produced no downtime and was transparent to district users. The resulting system provides redundant connections to file servers, network routers, network hubs and communication lines. This redundancy has eliminated single point failures within the network and insures that services will continue even when a major component fails. Warren's willingness to modify his schedule, work abnormal hours, and his technical abilities are commendable. Unfortunately, efforts such as Warren's and those of others in similar positions happen behind the scenes and they go unnoticed until something goes wrong. We are proud to recognize these efforts publicly and thank Warren for his hard work by selecting him as the February Employee of the Month.

Commander's Award

Mike Banovz, Chief, Internal Review Office



received the Commander's Award for his work on the team involved in a highly successful Army audit of the MVS credit card program.

Retiree Review

Some of the faithful return to the Salad Bowl for the monthly retirees' luncheon, but the attendance is getting smaller. The older retirees seem to make it, but the "younger" or recently retired seem to be very busy.

Don Wampler reported that Bob Maxwell is on the mend, from a knee replacement. He visits the physical therapist for weekly treatments and is looking forward to attending the monthly luncheons. Lew Scheuermann reported that Elmer Huizenga is also on the mend. Elmer and Estelle recently went ballroom dancing, but he has had to give up square dancing (probably because of his age). Lew hasn't heard from the Bakers recently, but assumes he is back playing golf and was probably at the recent Buick golf tournament.

Ron Bockhorst reported that at the recent NARFE meeting, Missouri House Bill No. 59 was discussed which is the bill that would exempt retired civil service employees over 65 from Missouri State Income taxes. Action is under way to have the bill introduced in both the State Senate and House. Ron will try to keep the retirees informed of its progress.

Charlie Denzel proudly displayed pictures of his twin grandchildren. He was going to Florida to visit them and also planned to visit Mike Cullen and his wife. Charlie has lunch with John Jansen about once a week. John is doing great, but no longer volunteers at St. Anthony's Hospital. He is, though, thinking of going back to playing tennis. He was quite the player a few years back.

Although the weather left much to be desired, those in attendance had a great time.

2001 Golf League Wants You

By Paul Clouse

The 2001 St. Louis District Spring Golf Tournament is scheduled for Friday, 20 April at Quail Creek Golf Club in South County. The tournament is open to all past or present District employees or golf league members. The tournament format is two-person scramble with teams to be paired and divided into three flights. Anyone who was not a league member during the 2000 season may choose his/her playing partner, league member or not, for the tournament and must play in the championship flight. Prizes will be awarded for 1st-3rd places, longest drive (#5), and two closest-to-holes (#3 & #16) in each flight. Entry fee is \$45, payable to the "Corps Golf League" no later than 13 April and includes green fees, cart, prizes and beverages.

The golf league is always looking for new members. Eligibility to participate in the St. Louis District Spring Golf Tournament has been extended to include relatives of past or present District employees and league members. We play a handicapped team format that includes excitement, the great outdoors, and a well-manicured golf course. Teams consist of six to eight players, four of whom will play each week. The league begins on 17 April this year. We will again be playing at Clinton Hills Country Club in Belleville every Tuesday at 1600. Weekly green fees will be the same as last year, \$10 walking and \$17 riding. League dues for 2001 will increase to \$25. This is the first price increase in over seven years and is due primarily to the increase in the price of golf balls.

For additional information concerning the league or the tournament, contact League President Dennis Gilmore (331-8108), Treasurer Gerry Schwalbe (331-8788), or Secretary Paul Clouse (331-8390).

CORRECTION: The March Esprit's feature article "Walk Through History" incorrectly identified **Dr. Laura Kozuch** as "Laura Krucho w."



The **District Speakers Bureau** has been established to encourage district employees to Reach Out to the community. The Public Affairs Office will make initial contact with potential requestors, and handle all pertinent administrative information (where, when, POC, obtain directions, etc.). Schools and civic and special interest groups regularly request guest speakers in many areas of expertise, but the Speakers Bureau has taken the process further. Rather than wait for requests, the PAO has formulated a process that will publicize and promote the Speakers Bureau to these organizations. The Bureau will also maintain records of accomplishments for public speaking activities, a roster of potential presenters in a wide range of specializations and will foster the efforts of all presenters. For a number of years, the lake projects have maintained information on their public contacts, but these records are not kept for district headquarters or Service Base personnel. The Speakers Bureau will revolutionize this effort. Along with the **new and still improving district web page**, the PAO has completely revamped their homepage. To assist potential clients in requesting presenters, a link identifying the purpose of the Speakers Bureau and the goal of the St. Louis District has been added to the PA homepage. We encourage all employees to view the new pages.



Tom Niedernhofer and Gary Lee present the Corps' role in disaster response to a 7th grade class.

All employees are potential speakers. One does not have to be a technical expert to present an overview of the St. Louis District's mission, operations and accomplishments. With knowledge of the district and the use of user-friendly PowerPoint presentations available through the Public Affairs Office, each and every one of us can be a Corps ambassador. Whether a speaker has used a generic district overview PowerPoint presentation to carry the Corps message, is giving a highly technical lecture to a professional society, or is presenting a hands-on educational activity to a third grade class, the Speakers Bureau wants to know.

Employees who make presentations, even those who are not on the Speakers Bureau roster, are encouraged to notify Lattissua Tyler, Speakers Bureau Program Coordinator, by e-mail with a brief summary including who, where, when, what, how, and **did you enlighten someone?**

Archaeologists Kristen and Eugene Marino were grateful for the opportunity to make a difference when they personally connected with over 200 students.

Biologist Keith McMullen's interactive and entertaining presentation on bird migration was very well-received. Students and teachers who were unaware they had an interest in birds developed a new enthusiasm and quickly became "experts" as Keith concluded with a competitive "Name That Bird" game.

A seventh grade teacher told **Structural Engineers** and **Disaster Response** experts Tom Niedernhofer and Gary Lee that her students were good, but she had never known them to sit still for an entire class period. They were studying disasters and were prepared with hard questions.

Native American Coordinator and tribal liaison specialist Roberta Hayworth will soon participate in a "Celebrate America" program with presentations on "Native Americans, Then and Now". Roberta will call on her extensive education, experience and tribal status to educate the students and teachers in some of the lesser-known district missions.

All presentations incorporate an overview of the St. Louis District's many missions.

Employees who have dealt with students know they can and do influence the lives of many. What a thrill it is to ignite a spark in a young mind and create interest where there was none. How satisfying it is to watch the light bulbs go on followed by a flurry of good questions. All district team members will have the opportunity to reach out to these young people and adult guests on Wednesday, 2 May when the St. Louis District presents **Real Life Science 2001**.